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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - BUSH-PUTIN MEETING

LEAD STORIES: Thursday morning's Tokyo Shimbun frontpaged a report from Moscow quoting Russian chief delegate to the six-party talks Losyukov as hinting at a possible resumption of the talks next week.

- ¶1. "US, Russia Must Continue Efforts to Bridge Gap" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (7/4): "Presidents Bush and Putin met at a time when US-Russia relations are at a post-Cold War low. It appears that the two leaders were able to repair their personal relationship of trust after a frank exchange of opinions at a Bush family villa. The talks, however, did not change the fundamental structure of the confrontation between the two countries over missile defense. The US and Russia must continue efforts to bridge the gap so as not to revive the US-Soviet arms race of the Cold War era...."
- ¶2. "A Time for Cooperation Rather Than Confrontation" An editorial in the conservative Sankei commented (7/4): "...Although Presidents Bush and Putin were not able to bridge their gap over US plans to install missile-defense facilities in Eastern Europe, they agreed to broaden their dialogue to at least prevent bilateral relations from worsening. Nonetheless, it would be premature to predict that the US and Russia will be able to revive their previously cooperative relationship. The two countries must first make efforts to foster relations of trust based on dialogue.... It has been nearly 18 years since the end of the Cold War, and Russia is no longer the presumed enemy of NATO. The NATO-Russia Council was established in 2002, bringing

Moscow partially into NATO's decision-making process. The direction [of relations between Russia and the West] should not be changed. There are a great many issues that require US-Russian cooperation, and a means must be devised to keep Russia involved."

SCHIEFFER